

HOUSE BILL 2891

By Brooks H

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49
and Title 50, relative to career and technical
education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 50-5-107, is amended by adding the following new subdivision (14):

(14) Is fourteen (14) years of age or older who is a student enrolled in a course of study and training in a cooperative career and technical training program, including a work experience and career exploration program, that is approved and authorized by the department of education and that complies with all applicable federal laws. Such student learner must be employed under a written agreement, a copy of which must be retained by the employer in the employer's personnel records.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-11-101(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() The state board for career and technical education shall develop, by October 1, 2008, policies and guidelines for cooperative career and technical training programs that provide school-supervised and school-administered work experience and career exploration for students. Such policies and guidelines shall comply with all state laws and federal laws and regulations concerning the employment of minors, but shall not be more restrictive concerning the employment of minors than such laws and regulations.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-1-201(c), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivisions:

() Authorize and approve cooperative career and technical training programs, including work experience and career exploration programs, meeting the policies and guidelines of the state board for career and technical education that LEAs or public

charter schools propose to operate. The commissioner shall monitor the operation of such programs and shall require periodic reporting by the LEAs or public charter schools conducting such programs as the commissioner deems appropriate, reasonable and necessary to evaluate the operation and the effectiveness of such programs.

() File, by January 1, 2009, with the administrator of the wage and hour division of the United States department of labor a letter of application for participation in the federal Work Experience and Career Exploration Program.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 2, Part 1, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 49-2-1__.

Any LEA or public charter school desiring to offer a work experience and career exploration program meeting the requirements of the state board for career and technical education shall apply for approval of such program to the commissioner of education.

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-106(a), is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

() Students who are under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and who in the court's judgment would benefit from a work experience and career exploration program. The proposed public charter school shall, in addition to complying with the application requirements § 49-13-107, apply to the commissioner of education for approval of its proposed work experience and career exploration program.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.